

BOROUGH OF DARWEN.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE
Year ending December 31st, 1931.


JAMES ROBERTSON, M.B., C.M., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health and
School Medical Officer.

DARWEN
PRINTED AT THE "NEWS" OFFICE,
MCMXXXII



*With the
Medical Officer of Health's
Compliments.*

*Public Health Dept.,
Darwen.*



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HEALTH OFFICE,

DARWEN,

April, 1932.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

It affords me pleasure in presenting to you my NINTH ANNUAL REPORT, which is also the FIFTY-FOURTH REPORT since the incorporation of the Borough.

It should be noted that the figures in this Report for the year 1930 differ slightly from those given in last year's Report. The reason being that the calculations were based upon the figures given to us by the Registrar General for 1929. His estimate for 1930 was not transmitted to us until the Report had been printed.

I take this opportunity of thanking all the Members of my Staff for their willing co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES ROBERTSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Members of the Health Committee.

1931-1932

COUNCILLOR W. JEPSON, J.P., MAYOR.

Chairman :

* COUNCILLOR DR. T. J. COSTELLO.

Vice-Chairman :

* COUNCILLOR R. S. HALLIWELL, B.A., LL.B.

ALDERMAN J. COCKER, J.P.

„ T. W. A. FORREST, M.B.E.,
J.P., C.C.

„ H. C. JEPSON.

„ G. PICKUP, J.P., C.C.

„ JOHN B. THORNLEY, J.P.

„ *W. WORTH, J.P.

COUNCILLOR J. T. CLARK.

„ *R. COCKER

„ W. R. DAVIES.

„ F. C. DUCKWORTH.

„ A. DUCKWORTH.

* MEMBER OF HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE.

COUNCILLOR T. DUXBURY.

„ R. ECCLES.

„ *J. HARWOOD.

„ *H. B. HALLIWELL.

„ T. E. HOLGATE, J.P.

„ H. D. HOLLAND.

„ W. JEPSON, J.P.

„ *W. KNOWLES, J.P.

„ E. LEACH.

„ *R. MARSDEN, J.P.

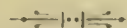
„ G. E. WEBSTER.

TOWN CLERK CHARLES COUTTS BYERS.

Staff of the Health Department.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	}	JAMES ROBERTSON, M.B., C.M., D.P.H.
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER		
MEDICAL OFFICER OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL		
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR	}	C. R. WALSH, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
MEAT INSPECTOR		
SANITARY INSPECTORS.....	}	...(North Division)—F. LITTLECOTT, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
		...(South Division)—E. P. MCGLYNN, C.R.S.I.
VETERINARY OFFICER.....		J. W. MARSLAND, M.R.C.V.S.
MATRON, INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL		Miss P. JAY.
HEALTH VISITORS AND	}	... MRS. H. H. SHAWCROSS, CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.
CHILD PROTECTION VISITORS ..		... Miss E. WORTH, CERT. MIDWIFE, A.R.S.I., CERT. H.V. AND S.N.
INSPECTOR OF MIDWIVES		Mrs. H. H. SHAWCROSS.
CLERKS.....		W. HAWORTH, H. HUTCHINSON, T. W. MARSDEN.

REPORT.



AREA (Acres), 5,959.

POPULATION : Census (1931), 36,010. Estimated (1931), 36,420.

Population in Wards.

Wards.	Census, 1931 (Estimated)	(Estimated) 1931
CENTRAL	5,872	5,937
WEST CENTRAL	3,231	3,267
NORTH-EAST	8,382	8,479
NORTH-WEST	6,462	6,535
SOUTH-EAST	6,370	6,443
SOUTH-WEST	5,693	5,759
TOTAL	36,010	36,420

Number of inhabited houses (1931), not available.

Number of inhabited houses at end of 1931, according to Rate Book, 10,450.

Number of families or separate occupiers (1931), not available.

Rateable Value, £181,181.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £705.

The inhabitants are chiefly of the artisan and labouring classes. The chief occupations include Cotton Weaving, Paper Making, Paper Staining, Paint Manufacturing, Fire Clay and Iron Workers.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1931.

		Total.	Males,	Females.	Birth Rate
LIVE BIRTHS	Legitimate	403	187	216	11.33
	Illegitimate	10	4	6	
		413	191	222	
		Total.	Males.	Females	Rate per 1000 Total Births.
STILL BIRTHS		17	8	9	39
		Total.	Males.	Females	Rate.
DEATHS		568	265	303	15.59

Percentage of total Deaths occurring in Public Institutions, 25.0.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, Child-birth :—From Sepsis, Nil ; from other Puerperal causes, 3.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births :—Total, 34 (Rate 82) ; Legitimate, 33 (Rate 81) ; Illegitimate, 1 (Rate 100).

Deaths from Measles (all ages), Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages), 3.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), 2.

Specify any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment :—None.

RATES PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.

	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Death Rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Death-rate from Cancer.	Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under 1 Year to 1000 Births.	
					per 1000 Live Births.	per 1000 Total (Live & Still) Births.		
Mean of 5 years,								
1926-1930	12.53	13.30	0.36	1.68	6.69	—	73	
1930	11.83	12.81	0.24	1.59	6.84	6.49	70	
1931	11.33	15.59	0.35	1.83	7.26	6.97	82	

Increase or Decrease in 1931 on :—

Mean of 5 years,								
1926-1930	-1.20	+2.29	-0.01	+0.15	+0.57	—	+9	
Previous year	-0.50	+2.78	+0.11	+0.24	+0.42	+0.48	+12	

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1931.

Provisional figures. The rates have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1931. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.

	Birth-Rate per 1000 Total Population.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.									Rate per 1,000 Births.	
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under Two Years).	Total Deaths under One Year.
England and Wales...	15.8	12.3	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.01	0.06	0.07	0.36	0.54	6.0	66
107 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	16.0	12.3	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.01	0.07	0.08	0.33	0.48	8.4	71
159 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000)	15.6	11.3	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.01	0.05	0.05	0.36	0.43	4.0	62
London	15.0	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.07	0.06	0.26	0.57	9.7	65
Darwen	11.33	15.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.05	0.63	0.71	4.8	82

Marriages.

The number of Marriages solemnized in Darwen during the year ending December 31st, 1931, was as follows :—

Church of England	130
Nonconformist Places of Worship	103
<hr/>	
Total	233
<hr/>	

This means that 466 people were united in the bonds of wedlock, and is at the rate of 12.79 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 12.48 per 1,000 in the previous year.

Year.	Births.		Deaths.		Marriages.	
	Number	Rate.	Number	Rate.	Number.	Rate.
1922	674	17.37	561	14.45	726	18.7
1923	602	15.44	528	13.54	648	16.6
1924	636	16.28	582	14.90	602	15.4
1925	546	14.05	549	14.13	548	14.1
1926	540	13.89	433	11.14	506	13.0
1927	462	11.95	580	15.01	550	14.2
1928	460	12.05	492	12.89	538	14.1
1929	489	12.94	555	14.68	518	13.7
1930	438	11.83	474	12.81	462	12.4
1931	413	11.33	568	15.59	466	12.7
<hr/>						
Average 10 Years ...	526	13.71	532	13.91	556	14.4



Births.

The number of Children born during the year was : Males 191, Female 222, making a total of 413 ; being 25 less than in the previous twelve months, and at the rate of 0.50 per 1,000 lower than in 1930.

The Birth Rate for the year was 11.33 per 1,000. The highest monthly Birth Rate was 15.15 in June and in May it was the lowest, the figure being 6.58 per 1,000.

TABLE showing the Estimated Populations, Number of Births, and the Birth-Rates for the Darwen Sanitary District for the last Ten Years.

Year.	Estimated Population at the Middle of Each Year.	Total Births.	Birth-Rate
1922	38,800	674	17.37
1923	38,980	602	15.44
1924	39,060	636	16.28
1925	38,850	546	14.05
1926	38,860	540	13.89
1927	38,630	462	11.95
1928	38,150	460	12.05
1929	37,780	489	12.94
1930	37,000	438	11.83
1931	36,120	413	11.33

Average Birth Rate for the last 10 years, 13.71.

BIRTH RATES IN THE VARIOUS WARDS.

Year.	C.	W.C.	N.E.	N.W.	S.E.	S.W.	Borough.
1922	18.01	17.81	19.48	15.51	15.44	17.60	17.37
1923	17.14	16.29	16.32	12.15	15.97	15.09	15.44
1924	16.17	18.83	16.16	13.84	19.24	14.57	16.28
1925	14.84	12.33	17.91	10.90	14.40	11.71	14.05
1926	12.62	16.63	15.14	15.50	13.96	10.41	13.89
1927	9.68	15.58	14.34	9.08	11.41	12.78	11.95
1928	13.02	13.73	13.84	9.64	11.55	10.77	12.05
1929	12.17	12.68	15.34	11.80	15.41	7.19	12.94
1930	12.10	12.35	11.14	10.69	14.97	10.08	11.83
1931	8.92	11.01	13.09	8.87	13.19	12.15	11.33
Averages for 10 Years.	13.46	14.72	15.27	11.79	14.55	12.23	13.71

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.

Ten Children were born out of wedlock during the year. This gives a rate of 2.42 per cent. of total births. Since 1922 the average annual number is 17.

The rate per cent. of Births average 2.42, and 1922 is the highest with 5.48.

The Infantile Mortality Rate of Illegitimates for the year was 100, and the average for the last 10 years was 114.

**TABLE showing number of Illegitimate Births, Etc.,
during the past Ten Years.**

Year.	Number of Births.	Rate % of Total Births.	No. of Deaths under 1 Year.	Death-rate per 1,000 Births.
1922	37	5.48	6	162
1923	20	3.32	4	200
1924	23	3.61	1	43
1925	15	2.74	2	133
1926	17	3.14	2	117
1927	9	1.94	0	Nil
1928	18	3.91	1	55
1929	12	2.45	2	166
1930	18	4.10	3	166
1931	10	2.42	1	100
Average	17	3.31	2	114

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.

	Number	Percentage of Births.
JANUARY	0	0.00
FEBRUARY	1	3.33
MARCH	1	2.63
APRIL	1	2.43
MAY	1	5.00
JUNE	1	2.17
JULY	0	0.00
AUGUST	1	2.43
SEPTEMBER	0	0.00
OCTOBER	0	0.00
NOVEMBER	0	0.00
DECEMBER	4	7.40
	10	2.45

BIRTHS IN WARDS, 1931.

	Central.		West-Central.		North-East.		North-West.		South-East.		South-West.		Total.		Rate per 1,000 estimated Population
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
January	0	4	0	1	3	2	2	1	2	4	2	2	9	14	7.57
February	2	3	2	0	0	4	4	3	2	5	2	3	12	18	9.88
March	5	4	0	1	3	5	2	4	2	3	2	7	14	24	12.53
April	2	0	3	1	7	8	2	0	7	4	3	4	24	17	13.50
May	1	2	1	2	2	3	2	1	3	1	1	1	10	10	6.58
June	6	5	1	3	6	6	1	4	2	6	5	1	21	25	15.15
July	1	2	1	1	5	9	1	2	0	4	1	1	9	19	9.22
August	2	3	2	1	4	6	3	3	6	4	5	2	22	19	13.50
September	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	5	4	4	3	1	14	14	9.22
October	2	0	0	2	1	7	3	0	0	3	6	2	12	14	8.56
November	1	0	1	4	9	4	2	2	3	4	3	5	19	19	12.52
December	3	2	3	4	7	6	4	5	5	7	3	5	25	29	17.79
	27	26	15	21	49	62	28	30	36	49	36	34	191	222	11.33
TOTAL	53		36		111		58		85		70		413		
Population	5,937		3,267		8,479		6,535		6,443		5,759		36,420		
Birth-rate	8.92		11.01		13.09		8.87		13.19		12.15		11.33		

Deaths.

The total number of Deaths during the year was 568 ; Males 265, Females 303 ; being an increase of 94 on the previous year.

The Death Rate for the year is 15.59, an increase of 2.78 on the previous year.

The number of Deaths of Residents in Institutions, etc., outside the district was 156, which has been added to the 412 deaths registered within the district, making a total of 568.

These Deaths are reported to me quarterly by the Registrar General, through the County Medical Officer of Health.

The number of Deaths in Queen's Park Hospital, Blackburn, was	77
„ „ „ Royal Infirmary, Blackburn	53
„ „ „ other Institutions and Places	26

One Death of a Non-Resident occurred in the town during the year.

INQUESTS.

There were 35 Inquests held during the year, compared with 41 during 1930. The following were the verdicts :—

	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
Accidental Death ...	15	12	16	12	8	20	18	17	26	18
Natural Causes	8	18	11	7	10	10	3	12	12	7
Suicide	5	7	1	7	6	10	11	5	3	10
	28	37	28	26	24	40	32	34	41	35

Death Rates per 1,000 of the Population in the various Wards of the Borough.

WARDS Population	Central 5937	West- Central 3267	North- East 8479	North- West 6535	South- East 6443	South- West 5759	Borough 36420
1931							
January.. . . .	4.04	7.34	14.15	14.69	7.44	16.66	11.20
February	8.08	3.67	12.73	18.36	29.79	8.33	14.49
March	30.31	7.34	14.15	12.85	9.31	22.92	16.47
April.....	20.21	7.34	8.49	7.34	11.17	18.75	12.19
May	14.14	14.69	12.73	14.69	11.17	8.33	12.52
June	10.10	0.00	9.90	14.69	11.17	8.33	9.88
July	2.02	7.34	4.24	5.50	13.03	14.58	7.57
August	14.14	3.67	8.49	11.01	11.17	8.33	9.88
September ...	12.12	3.67	5.66	5.50	0.00	4.16	5.27
October.....	10.10	14.69	9.90	20.19	9.31	16.66	13.17
November... ..	12.12	0.00	9.90	7.34	11.17	16.66	10.21
December.....	8.08	11.01	14.15	22.03	11.17	8.33	12.85
Transfers	48.50	62.44	38.21	40.39	59.59	70.84	51.40
Rate for year...	16.16	11.93	13.56	16.22	16.29	18.57	15.59

Death Rates in the various Wards for the past Ten Years.

Year	C.	W.C.	N.E	N.W.	S.E.	S W.	Borough.
1922	15.48	15.22	14.28	15.80	11.94	14.50	14.45
1923	11.15	12.58	12.56	15.01	14.93	11.67	13.54
1924	14.91	23.97	13.30	17.69	13.89	12.14	14.90
1925	14.84	16.64	13.60	14.06	11.35	15.95	14.13
1926	12.15	8.60	11.27	12.04	10.61	10.90	11.14
1927	16.19	22.51	15.23	12.26	12.73	14.89	15.01
1928	13.34	11.10	13.39	14.17	12.29	11.93	12.89
1929	15.42	15.34	16.71	12.68	15.86	11.55	14.68
1930	14.25	12.35	10.91	14.15	13.13	12.47	12.81
1931	16.16	11.93	13.56	16.22	16.29	18.57	15.59
Average...	14.68	15.02	13.48	14.40	13.30	13.45	13.91

CAUSES OF DEATH IN DARWEN, M.B., 1931.

Causes of Death (Civilians only).	Males.	Females.
All Causes	265	303
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—
2. Measles	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	1	2

Causes of Death (Civilians only).		Males.	Females.
5.	Diphtheria	1	1
6.	Influenza	11	12
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1
8.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—
9.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	7	6
10.	Other Tuberculous Diseases	6	—
11.	Syphilis	2	—
12.	General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	2	1
13.	Cancer, Malignant Disease	31	36
14.	Diabetes	1	4
15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	14	27
16.	Heart Disease	45	77
17.	Aneurysm	—	—
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases	18	23
19.	Bronchitis	6	15
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	25	16
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases	3	1
22.	Peptic Ulcer	5	2
23.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	2	—
24.	Appendicitis	—	1
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver	2	—
26.	Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	1	4
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	—	8
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	13	13
29.	Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
30.	Other Puerperal Causes	—	3
31.	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	11	11
32.	Senility	2	11
33.	Suicide	7	3
34.	Other violence	12	4
35.	Other defined diseases	35	21
36.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	—
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)—			
	Small-pox	—	—
	Poliomylitis	—	—
	Polioencephalitis	—	—

Causes of Death (Civilians only).	Males.	Females.
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—		
Total	20	14
Legitimate	20	13
Illegitimate	—	1
Live Births—		
Total	191	222
Legitimate	187	216
Illegitimate	4	6
Stillbirths—		
Total	8	9
Legitimate	8	9
Illegitimate	—	—

Population (mid 1931) 36,420.

The death rate for the year was 15.59 per 1,000.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912
1.1	2.1	2.2	1.6	2.08	2.34	2.90	2.14	1.03	0.76	2.07	1.00	1.14	0.69	0.76	1.10	0.51	1.51	0.86
1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
0.27	0.44	1.42	0.54	0.32	0.42	0.19	0.12	0.12	0.64	0.07	0.20	0.66	0.15	0.12	0.05	0.15	0.27	0.19

There have been no causes of sickness or invalidity worthy of special note during the period under review. No conditions of employment or environment appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

For particulars of Staff see page 4.

POOR LAW MEDICAL OUT RELIEF.

This service is under the Administrative Control of the County Council (Public Assistance Committee).

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

Arrangements in the district for—(a) General Nursing. There is a District Nursing Association in the town employing about five nurses. Districts are allotted to these nurses. They attend the sick and carry out the physicians' instructions. (b) For Infectious Diseases the Council make an annual grant to the said District Nursing Association of £10 10s. 0d. and pay 1/- per nursing visit for attendance upon cases of Puerperal Fever, Puerperal Pyrexia, Pneumonia (in children up to 5 years old), Infantile Diarrhoea, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and Anterior Poliomyelitis. The Darwen Tramways Committee supply the District Nursing Association with free passes for the Trams and Buses.

Mr. G. L. Kay, honorary financial secretary to the District Nursing Association, has kindly supplied me with the following particulars :—

		Gross Income.			Net Expenditure.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1930	.....	2,082	9	1	2,064	7	8
1931	.....	1,823	18	1	1,859	0	10

An Orthopaedic Clinic for treatment of cases has been established in connection with this Association.

MIDWIVES.

None employed by the Local Authority.

There are 18 Midwives on the Register, all of whom are practising in the Borough.

The number of Midwives practising is sufficient for the district.

REPORT OF INSPECTION OF MATERNITY NURSING HOMES AND PRACTISING MIDWIVES DURING 1931.

MATERNITY NURSING HOMES.

Three Homes are on the register.

Under Rule 25, Section E, of the Central Midwives Board, routine visits are paid to these Homes when record books are examined and a general survey is made.

Special visits are paid after receiving notification of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Puerperal Pyrexia or Puerperal Fever, to see that Rule 6, Section E., is carried out.

MIDWIVES ON REGISTER.

Eighteen Midwives are on the Register including one untrained. Two of these practise solely in their Nursing Homes and two combine Nursing Home and District Practice, the remaining 14 practise as District Midwives and Monthly Nurses.

Routine Visits are paid to the Midwives, when Ante-Natal records, case books and bag of appliances are examined and a general survey of the surroundings noted.

Special visits are made when the same conditions arise as stated regarding Maternity Homes. The outdoor uniform in these cases, along with bag of appliances are brought to the Health Office for inspection, and if found necessary, are disinfected.

REPORT OF INSPECTION OF NURSING HOMES AND PRACTISING MIDWIVES DURING 1931.

Routine Visits to Nursing Homes	12
Special Visits to Nursing Homes	4
Routine Visits to Midwives	32
Special Visits to Midwives	12
Interviewing Midwives at Office	16

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

On the 2nd day of August, 1928, the powers under the Nursing Homes (Registration) Act, 1927, were handed over to the Darwen Corporation by the Lancashire County Council.

Three Private Maternity Homes are registered by the Council.

These Homes are kept under inspection by us and have been found satisfactory.

MEDICAL HELP RECORDS RECEIVED FROM MIDWIVES DURING 1931.

PREGNANCY.

Albumen in Urine	4
Ante-Partum Hæmorrhage	1
Illness of Patient and Previous History	1

	6

LABOUR.

Uterine Inertia	6
Illness of Patient	2
Varicose Veins	2
Head on Perineum—no progress	1
Rigid Os	1
Malpresentation	13
Ruptured Perineum	30
Delayed Labour	18
Rigid Perineum	1
Prolapse of Cervix	1
Persistent Occipito Posterior	6
Delayed Birth of 2nd Twin	1
Retained Membranes	1
	<hr/>
	83
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LYING-IN.

Rigors with rise of temperature	2
Inflamed Varicose Veins	1
Post-Partum Hæmorrhage	2
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	5
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THE CHILD.

Dangerous Feebleness	8
Hæmorrhage from Ear	1
Stillbirth	4
Death of Infant	1
Eye Discharges	3
Convulsions	1
	<hr/>
	18
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TOTAL, 112.

MIDWIVES ACT, 1918.

In 15 instances where doctors were called in, the Council paid fees amounting to a total of £26 12s. 0d.

NOTICES RECEIVED FROM MIDWIVES DURING 1931.

Notification of Deaths	8
„ „ Liability to be a source of Infection ...	3
„ „ Stillbirths	4
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	15
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LABORATORY WORK.

The Corporation have an arrangement with the Public Health Laboratory, York Place, Manchester, for the examination of Pathological and Bacteriological specimens, the Corporation paying the necessary fees.

The number of Bacteriological Examinations is as follows—Blood 5, Sputum 2, Throat Swabs 259.

In addition the Tuberculosis Officer's Department (Dr. MacPhee) have examined 89 specimens of Sputum, with a positive result in 16 cases and a negative result in 73.

Table showing the number of Pathological Specimens which have been sent for examination to the Public Health Laboratory, Victoria University, Manchester.

YEAR.	Diphtheria.				Typhoid Fever.				Tuberculosis Sputum.			Cerebro-Spinal Fever.					
	Posi- tive.	Nega- tive.	Doubt ful.	Total	Posi- tive.	Nega- tive.	Doubt ful.	Total	Posi- tive.	Nega- tive.	Total	Spinal fluid			Swabs.		
1927.....	3	17	...	20	...	4	...	4	1	5	6	...	...	...	..	...	...
1928.....	1	12	...	13	1	5	...	6	2	6	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
1929.....	33	112	3	148	...	5	...	5	...	3	3	...	...	...	..	...	...
1930. . .	48	418	2	468	...	2	...	2	1	1	2	...	..	..	.	...	...
1931.....	36	220	3	259	1	4	..	5	...	2	2	...	.	...	...	...	...

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Local Acts	Darwen Corporation Act .	Operative from 1887.
	Darwen Corporation Act .	1899.
	Darwen Corporation Act .	1926.
Local Orders	Darwen Order	1912.
General Adoptive Acts	Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890 (Certain Sections)	27th October, 1890.
	The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890 (Certain Sections)	27th October, 1900
	Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907 (Certain Sections)	15th January, 1912.
	Public Health Act, 1925 ..	1st April, 1926.
	Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926 and 1931	8th July, 1931.
	Baths and Washhouses Act, 1846-1899	27th November, 1929.

Legislation in Force.—continued.

Bye-laws relating to Public Health	Nuisances—Snow, filth, dust, ashes, rubbish, keeping of animals	3rd March, 1881.
	Slaughterhouses	3rd March, 1881.
	Common Lodging Houses.	3rd March, 1881.
	Prevention of waste, mis- use or contamination of water	5th June, 1891.
	Public Slaughterhouses ...	9th April, 1896.
	New Streets and Build- ings	28th July, 1927.
	Houses Let in Lodgings..	21st August, 1929.

All the powers granted under the various Acts and Orders are put into operation when necessary. We have no difficulty in getting the public to comply with our requests.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The Blackburn and East Lancashire Royal Infirmary is an Institution standing at the Southern end of the neighbouring Borough of Blackburn.

Every case sent from Darwen is admitted.

The Secretary, Mr. Nathan A. Smith, supplied the following information of patients from Darwen treated in this Institution—

	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
In-Patients	394	400	403	427	483	418	492	488	698	705
Out-Patients	766	822	824	832	1166	1083	729	1188	1325	1401

Based upon the ordinary expenditure for the year, the Cost of Treatment of these Patients for the year 1931 was £4,329 6s. 6d.

There is no hospital accommodation (locally) for the treatment of maternity cases, or for children's ailments. The Queen's Park Hospital, Blackburn, is the Public Assistance Infirmary for Darwen, etc., and admits maternity and other cases from Darwen as required. They have at this hospital a maternity section and an open-air section for cripple children, and carry out orthopædic work. Children are also sent for treatment to Manchester Children's Hospital, Pendlebury.

An Orthopædic Scheme was arranged between the Lancashire County Council and the Darwen Town Council and ratified on July 6th, 1931. The Clinic was opened on March 16th, 1932.

This Scheme includes all children from birth until they leave school.

A trained Orthopædic Nurse visits Darwen every Wednesday, and holds her clinic at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

The Orthopædic Surgeon visits once a month, sees new cases, and advises the Nurse.

Cases advised Hospital Treatment are sent to Biddulph or to Ancoats, Manchester.

For Smallpox—The Corporation have entered into an agreement with the Blackburn Corporation whereby three beds are reserved for the use of Darwen patients in Finnington Hospital, Blackburn.

For other Infectious Diseases—At Bull Hill Hospital, 36 beds. The cases usually admitted are Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Erysipelas and Pneumonia.

Bull Hill Hospital is owned by the Corporation.

During the year 42 cases of Scarlet Fever, 5 Pneumonia, 51 Diphtheria, 1 Typhoid Fever, and 2 Erysipelas were admitted to our Bull Hill Hospital.

The Medical Officer of Health is the physician in charge of the hospital. Consultants are called in when required. During the year under review, Dr. Aitken was called in to a patient suffering from Acute Pneumococcal Appendicitis and Peritonitis. This case was transferred to the Blackburn Royal Infirmary.

Experience now leads me to the conclusion that the Hospital could be more efficiently worked, and serve its true function, by having a small cubicle block, of at least 12 cubicles, built.

Such a block would meet the difficulties arising from (i.) Cases of mixed infection ; (ii.) Cases of difficult diagnosis ; (iii.) Suspect cases, and would in my opinion, reduce the cost per patient and the risk of cross infection.

Tubercular cases from Darwen are admitted to various Sanatoria through the Lancashire County Tuberculosis Committee.

Arrangements have been made for the admission of Maternity cases into the Springfield Maternity Home, Blackburn. Dr. Aitken, of Blackburn, has been appointed consultant, in cases of difficult confinement, Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia, and where he considers it to be necessary, has the patient removed to his own ward in the Blackburn Royal Infirmary, where he personally attends.

The number of cases so removed during the year was Puerperal 2, and Midwifery 5.

The Council make the following grants annually to voluntary hospitals . £10 10s. 0d. Royal Infirmary, Manchester ; £5 5s. 0d. St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester ; £5 5s. 0d. Royal Infirmary, Blackburn ; £5 5s. 0d. Royal Eye Hospital, Manchester.

General Medical and Surgical Cases are admitted to Blackburn Royal Infirmary, an Institution maintained by voluntary subscriptions.

Children are admitted to Queen's Park Hospital, Blackburn (Public Assistance).

Maternity Cases are admitted to Springfield Maternity Home, Blackburn, by arrangement with Blackburn Corporation, or Blackburn Royal Infirmary.

Venereal Diseases are treated at Blackburn Royal Infirmary under the Lancashire County Council's Scheme.

Tuberculosis patients are admitted to various Sanatoria, etc., under the administration of the Lancashire County Council.

The Chronic Sick and Mental Cases are admitted to Queen's Park Hospital, Blackburn (P.A.).

Cases of Mental Deficiency are admitted to "Calderstones," Whalley, under the control of the Lancashire County Council.

Ear, Nose and Throat Cases and also Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia are treated at Blackburn Royal Infirmary.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

For the removal of Infectious Cases we have a motor ambulance, the motor driver also carrying out all disinfecting. For non-infectious and accident cases a motor ambulance is available at Messrs. E. Ainsworth, Ltd., Borough Mews, by agreement with the Town Council.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Two Maternity and Child Welfare Centres have been established. One at No. 43, Bolton Road, is open daily from 9 to 10 a.m. and 5 to 5-30 p.m. Special Afternoon Sessions are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 2-30 to 5 p.m. The other Centre is at Greenfield Institute and an Afternoon Session is held on Wednesdays from 2-30 to 5 p.m.

We have no Day Nursery.

There is one School Clinic (at Holker House), established and maintained by the local Education Authority.

Orthopædic Cases.—Special provision has now been made for Treatment of such cases during 1932 at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre as per agreement with the Lancashire County Council. See page 18.

We have no Artificial Light Clinic.

At 20, Railway Road, Darwen, there is a Tuberculosis Dispensary, under the direct control of the Lancashire County Council, where patients attend for examination once each week.

Venereal Diseases are treated at Blackburn Royal Infirmary.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

All Maternal Deaths and cases of Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia are specially investigated by the Medical Officer of Health. Special Reports on Maternal Deaths, after investigations, are forwarded to the Ministry of Health.

There is no Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children, in the town, other than sending them into Queen's Park Hospital, Blackburn.

PUERPERAL FEVER AND PYREXIA.

Under the Public Health (Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations, 1926, the Council have arranged with Dr. R. Y. Aitken, of Blackburn, to act as consultant. Any bacteriological examination that may be required will be carried out in the Public Health Laboratory, York Place, Manchester. Cases requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Bull Hill Hospital or Blackburn Royal Infirmary in accordance with consultant's instructions. Should any case remain at home the District Nursing Association under the arrangement with the Council would send a nurse to carry out the medical attendant's instructions.

Year	Puerperal Fever Notific.	Total Births	Deaths		Still Births	Infantile Mortality Rate
			Puerperal Sepsis	Other Accidents or Diseases of Pregnancy		
1924	5	636	4	3	26	67
1925	4	546	0	6	16	119
1926	4	540	2	4	35	75
1927	6	462	1	1	23	69
1928	4	460	3	3	12	67
1929	4	489	2	2	28	85
1930	3	438	1	2	24	70
1931	1	413	0	3	17	82

Dr. Aitken (Consultant) was called on 10 occasions in cases of Puerperal Fever, Puerperal Pyrexia, or difficult confinement. Fees amounting to £31 10s. 0d. were paid.

RETURN OF VACCINATION FOR DARWEN, 1931.

MONTHS.	Success- ful Vaccina- tion.	Died Unvac- cinated.	Insus- ceptible.	Ex- empted.	Post- poned.	Re- moved out of Town and Traced.	Re- moved and Cannot Trace	Unac- counted for.	Success- fully vaccinated each quarter.
January ...	9	1	0	15	0	0	0	0	25
February ...	5	3	0	22	0	0	0	0	
March	11	1	0	27	0	0	0	1	
April	9	3	0	29	0	0	0	0	
May	8	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	31
June	14	2	0	32	1	0	0	0	
July	7	1	0	22	0	0	0	0	
August	6	4	0	29	2	0	0	0	
September..	10	1	1	16	0	0	0	0	23
October ...	8	2	0	17	0	0	0	0	
November..	13	2	0	19	0	0	0	6	22
December ..	1	1	0	12	0	0	0	15	
	101	21	1	253	3	0	0	22	101

VACCINATION.

Year	Births	Successfully Vaccinated	Rate per cent Vaccinated
1922	674	169	24.92
1923	602	208	34.55
1924	636	178	27.98
1925	546	156	28.57
1926	540	158	29.25
1927	462	144	31.16
1928	460	124	26.95
1929	489	128	26.18
1930	438	96	21.91
1931	413	101	24.45

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Two Health Visitors have been appointed and we have established two Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. Two sessions are held weekly at the Bolton Road Centre, and one at the Greenfield Centre. Advice is given daily by the Health Visitors at Bolton Road Centre to any mothers between the hours of 9 to 10 a.m., and 5 to 5-30 p.m. The Medical Officer of Health attends one session each week for ante-natal work. Children up to five years are weighed and record cards are kept.

The following are particulars of the work of the Health Visitors—

First Visits	410
Second and Subsequent Visits	3878
Visits to Children over 1 year and under 5 years	4728
Visits to Expectant Mothers	365
Visits re Stillbirths	13
Visits to Babies suffering from Ophthalmia Neonatorum—First	3
Visits to Babies suffering from Ophthalmia Neonatorum—Second and Subsequent Visits	1
Visits to Babies suffering from Measles and other infectious diseases..	422
Other Special Visits	115
	9935

The following particulars were obtained on first visits—

Feeding—	
Breast	326
Bottle	49
Breast and Bottle	33
Breast and Spoon	1
Spoon Fed	1
	<hr/>
	410
	<hr/>

Types of Bottles Used—

Bottles without Tubes (including medicine bottles, etc.)	67
Bottles with Glass Tubes	14
Bottles with Rubber Tubes	1
	<hr/>
	82
	<hr/>

Foods—

Cow's Milk (Grade A)	1
Cow's Milk (undiluted)	4
Cow's Milk (Certified)	2
Cow's Milk (Pasteurized) (diluted)	5
Cow's Milk and Water	52
Cow's Milk and Barley Water	3
Cow's Milk and Lime Water	5
Nestlé's Milk	1
Dried Milk	4
Patent Foods	5
Secway or Whey	1
	<hr/>
	83
	<hr/>

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

Bolton Road. Greenfield.

Number of children who have been weighed during the year	598	...	182
Total Number of Weighings	4616	...	1519
Babies specially examined by the Medical Officer	290	...	43
Babies referred to Family Doctor for Treatment	6	...	0
Babies recommended for Institution Treatment	9	...	1
Average Attendance of Expectant Mothers per Session ...	2	...	1
Average Attendance of Mothers per Session	54	...	35
Average Attendance of Children per Session	52	...	35

The following is a summary of cases which were examined by the Medical Officer of Health at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, and found to be suffering from some type of deformity requiring special treatment.

ADMITTED TO BLACKBURN ROYAL INFIRMARY.

No.	Condition.	Result.
3	Tonsils and Adenoids	Had operation.
1	Conjunctivitis	Improved.
1	Phimosis	No operation.
1	Tenderness over Mastoid	Still under treatment.
1	Skin eruption	Improved.
1	Double anus	No operation.
1	Umbilical Hernia	No operation.

ADMITTED TO QUEEN'S PARK HOSPITAL.

1	Rickets	Did not attend. Went to own Doctor.
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REFERRED TO FAMILY DOCTOR.

No.	Condition.	Result.
2	Coughs and Colds	Cured.
1	Intestinal Hæmorrhage	Cured.
1	Septic Finger	Cured.
1	Malnutrition	Died.
1	Otorrhœa	Cured.

PARTICULARS OF OTHER INDIVIDUAL CASES SPECIALLY
EXAMINED BY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Defects.	No.	Defects.	No.
Eye Discharge	3	Impetigo	1
Strabismus	6	Urticaria	5
Blepharitis	1	Pityriasis	1
Conjunctivitis	1	Dermatitis	7
Stye	1	Seborrhœa	2
Deafness	1	Simple Rashes	16
Otorrhœa	1	Septic Sores	1
Pain in Ear	2	Ulcer on Heels	1
Tenderness over Mastoid	1	Burns and Scalds	5
Septic Folliculitis	1	Phimosis	7
Coughs and Colds	2	Inflamed penis	2
Enlarged Tonsils	5	Long Prepuce	2
Teething	7	Undescended testicles	2
Dental treatment	1	Painful Micturition	2
Abdominal pains	3	Nocturnal Enuresis	1
Feeding	16	Oxyuris Vermicularis	1
Vomiting	6	Intestinal Hæmorrhage	1
Stomatitis	1	Double Anus	1
Constipation	11	Wound at Anus	1
Diarrhœa	3	Defective speech	1
Abnormal Stools	3	Delayed and defective walking..	2
Acidosis	1	Congenital Heart	1
Umbilical Hernia	22	Tongue Tie	1
Umbilical Discharge	3	Inflammation of toes	1
Inguinal Hernia	3	Hydrocephalus	1
Puffiness under Eyes	2	Icterus Neonatorum	1
Malnutrition and underweight ...	6	Inflamed Throat	1
Rickets (Early)	16	Loss of weight	9
O _Λ dium Albicans	1	Molluscum Contagiosum	1

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACTS.

Table showing the number of Births and Notified during 1931.

	Male.		Female.		Total.		Stillborn.
JANUARY	15	.....	15	.....	30	.....	1
FEBRUARY	10	.....	19	.....	29	.....	0
MARCH	17	.....	20	.....	37	.....	1
APRIL	20	.....	18	.....	38	.....	0
MAY	15	.....	23	.....	38	.....	2
JUNE	17	.....	21	.....	38	.....	0
JULY	13	.....	21	.....	34	.....	3
AUGUST	19	.....	15	.....	34	.....	2
SEPTEMBER	21	.....	12	.....	33	.....	2
OCTOBER	15	.....	19	.....	34	.....	0
NOVEMBER	17	.....	22	.....	39	.....	1
DECEMBER	13	.....	14	.....	27	.....	1
	192	.....	219	.....	411	.....	13

Births Notified by Midwives	399
Births Notified by Medical Men	2
Births Notified by Midwives and Medical Men	10
Total	411

Table showing Births Notified, Visits, Etc.

Year.	Births Notified.				Births not Notified.		Births Visited.		Births Revisited
	Males.	Females	Total.	Still-born.	No.	Prosecutions.	No.	% of Total	
1922	335	337	672	30	10	0	472	70.2	1157
1923	303	326	629	33	5	0	596	100.0	2545
1924	331	310	641	26	3	0	593	92.5	3989
1925	274	272	546	16	9	0	489	89.5	2769
1926	273	269	542	35	4	0	532	98.1	2954
1927	239	227	466	23	3	0	466	98.2	2666
1928	245	222	467	12	0	0	463	99.1	3262
1929	262	235	497	21	2	0	473	95.1	3769
1930	229	198	427	17	2	0	426	99.7	3612
1931	192	219	411	13	2	0	410	99.7	3878

DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Year	Premature Birth	Convulsions	Bronchitis & Pneumonia	Diarrhoeal Diseases	Whooping Cough	Measles	Inanition	Congenital Defects	Other Causes	Total	Rate per 1000 Births
1922	8	3	9	..	2	4	4	6	20	56	83
1923	12	3	6	..	..	1	2	9	14	47	78
1924	15	..	8	4	..	..	6	3	7	43	67
1925	13	2	12	..	1	7	2	9	19	65	119
1926	6	2	6	2	2	..	3	6	14	41	75
1927	8	2	7	1	..	..	4	4	6	32	69
1928	5	4	9	..	..	..	..	5	8	31	67
1929	11	3	11	..	..	..	4	3	10	42	85
1930	6	..	5	1	..	2	..	5	12	31	70
1931	10	1	5	..	1	..	1	4	12	34	82

DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE IN MONTHS.

	Under 1 Month	Under 2 M'ths.	Under 3 M'ths.	Under 4 M'ths.	Under 5 M'ths.	Under 6 M'ths.	Under 7 M'ths.	Under 8 M'ths.	Under 9 M'ths.	Under 10 M'ths.	Under 11 M'ths.	Under 12 M'ths.	Total
Deaths	19	1	2	3	2	1	0	1	0	2	1	2	34
Percentage of Total.	55.8	2.9	5.8	8.8	5.8	2.9	...	2.9	...	5.8	2.9	5.8	...

TABLE SHOWING INFANTILE MORTALITY IN THE VARIOUS WARDS.

Year.	C.	W.C.	N.E.	N.W.	S.E.	S.W.	Boro.'
1922	131	64	79	64	75	74	83
1923	119	70	81	59	63	64	78
1924	97	114	82	40	62	52	67
1925	106	162	74	79	151	208	119
1926	125	34	80	66	83	46	75
1927	114	111	46	48	26	102	69
1928	37	106	81	45	102	301	67
1929	173	93	66	62	48	139	85
1930	68	24	52	126	51	101	70
Average for 9 yrs.	107	86	71	65	73	120	79
1931	113	83	81	103	70	57	82

We have no local Maternity Home or Hospital for the reception of expectant and nursing mothers and young children.

During the year there were three maternal deaths. Two deaths occurred in Queen's Park Hospital, one from Pneumonia, one from Eclampsia. The other patient died at home from Chronic Nephritis.

The cases were seen regularly by the Health Visitors and also were attended to ante-natally by their own doctors.

During the year 142 expectant mothers have been advised, as required, at the Centres or at their homes.

The Poor Law Authorities deal with cases of unmarried mothers, illegitimate children, and children temporarily or permanently deprived of a home with their own parents. The cases are admitted to Queen's Park Hospital.

The Local Authority has instituted a scheme for the supply of milk for necessitous infants and expectant and nursing mothers. During 1931 free grants in necessitous cases were made as follows :—

Fresh Cow's Milk value £58 11s. 8d., Dried Milk 9s. 0d., a total of £59 0s. 8d.

The applicants for this grant fill up a form ; inquiries are made regarding the social conditions and income of applicants and a graded scale is worked to before any grant of free milk is made.

Children under 5 years of age requiring orthopaedic treatment were sent to Queen's Park Hospital where there is a special open-air block for that purpose, or to Pendlebury Children's Hospital. Provision has now been made for treatment of such cases during 1932 at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre as per the Lancashire County Council Scheme.

We have a Voluntary Care Committee, consisting of about 40 ladies resident in the town who interest themselves in the work of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre. Three of this number are members of the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee. In this connection there is a Mothers' Club which meets one evening every fortnight at the Maternity Centre. A course of lectures and practical demonstrations is given. There is also a Savings Scheme in connection with the Mothers' Club.

All children have record cards and when each child attains the age of 5 years the card is transferred to the School Medical Department.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

The two Health Visitors are appointed Inspectors to carry out the duties, and during 1931 it was only necessary to pay one visit.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The Water is collected mostly from Moorland, and is a soft water, having only about four degrees of hardness.

The service is a constant one.

The approximate number of dwellinghouses supplied direct is 10,497. There is no supply by stand pipe.

There is no possibility of contamination in the vicinity of dwellinghouses.

Water from Sunnyhurst Reservoir is slightly acid and is treated with Sodium Carbonate before sand filtration, and limestone is also placed in the bed of the brook at the intake.

Water from house taps has been analysed during the year to test the efficiency of the treatment, and has been found to be satisfactory.

Several farms and remote country houses are supplied from private sources.

There is no insufficiency.

Three inch and four inch water mains have been extended where necessary during the year.

The amount used during the year was 407,196,000 gallons ; 38,552,000 being for trade purposes, the remainder for domestic use at the rate of 27.7 gallons per head per day.

The total Rainfall for the year on the Watershed was 56.88 inches, where rain fell on 235 days ; and in Bold Venture Park 61.20 inches, where there was rain on 231 days.

The heaviest Rainfall at Bold Venture Park was in November with 9.84 inches, and the lowest in March, with 0.66 inches. At the Watershed the heaviest fall occurred in November with 9.63 inches, and the lowest in March with 0.65 inches.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The river is regularly sampled for pollution. Inspections are also made by the Sanitary Inspectors and the bed of the river kept as free as possible from debris.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Bacteriological method is the one in use for the treatment of sewage, and is efficient.

There are a few scattered houses situated in outlying parts of the town to which our drainage system has not yet been extended. These houses are still on the pail system and necessitate the collection and removal of the excreta by the Local Authority.

The Water and Smoke tests are applied to drains.

Sewers are frequently examined and flushed.

The drainage system is of the combined type.

CLOSETS AND ASHPITS.

The following constitutes the accommodation in this respect at the end of the year in question—

Pails	195
Water Closets	8759
Waste Water Closets	2446
Cesspools	2
	<hr/>
Total	11393
	<hr/>

Conversions and Installations during 1931 :—

New Water Closets fixed	26
Premises with one New Closet fixed	17
Premises with more than one New Closet fixed	3
Pail converted to Water Closet	0
Waste Water Closets converted to Water Closets.....	12
Baths installed during the year	32
Urinals installed during the year	2

Comparative Conversions :—

	During year 1931.	During Five years 1926-1930.
No. of Privy Closets—		
To Fresh W.C.'s	—	—
To Waste W.C.'s	—	—
To Pails, etc.	—	—
No. of Pail Closets—		
To Fresh W.C.'s	—	19
To Waste W.C.'s	—	—
No. of Waste W.C.'s to Fresh W.C.'s	12	101
No. of Houses at which Movable Ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles	6	44

There are 5 Dry Ashpits and 11,067 portable refuse receptacles, the majority of which are ashes tubs and placed under covered sheds in the yards. The ashes tubs are gradually being replaced with galvanized bins having tight fitting lids.

The Corporation under the provisions of a Local Act contribute half cost of conversions of pails to fresh water closets. In new property only fresh water closets are allowed to be fixed.

Most of the Pail Closets still left are outside the sewered areas of the Borough and cannot be dealt with at present.

We have no privy middens in the town area.

All Pail Closets in the remote country districts are emptied mostly during the night.

SCAVENCING.

The Scavenging and collection of House Refuse is efficiently carried out by the Sanitary Authority.

We have one 30 cwt. motor vehicle, the rest of the wagons and carts are horse drawn.

House refuse is burnt in a Meldrum's Destructor which is situated near the Electricity Works.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

No. of premises visited:—4,874.

Defects or Nuisances :—No. discovered, 2,898 ; No. abated, 2,467.

No. of Notices served :—Informal, 2,837 ; Statutory, 392.

Legal proceedings were instituted in two instances.

For details refer to page 55.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Advice has frequently been given to furnacemen in regard to the methods of stoking.

The Inspectors took six observations, each of one hour's duration, during the year. None of the chimneys observed emitted smoke in excess of the time limit.

The time limit allowed per hour for the emission of Black Smoke is as follows :—One, two or three boilers, five minutes per hour. Four or more boilers, seven minutes per hour.

At two large works Mechanical Stokers were fixed to the boilers with satisfactory results.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

During 1931 no legal action was necessary. Local Byelaws were granted to the Corporation in 1929 and these are adequate.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE.

The Municipal Model Lodging House is the only common lodging house in the town and is frequently inspected.

The average daily number of lodgers for the year was 60.55, including women, as compared with 70.37 for the previous year, a decrease of 9.82. This decrease was mainly accounted for by the prevailing industrial depression.

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS.

There are very few caravans and these are in remote parts of the district. Strict supervision is maintained.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Three firms carry on offensive trades within the Borough, i.e., Tripe Boiling and Gut Scraping. The conduct of the trade is carried out satisfactorily in each case.

WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

The Workshops and Workplaces are on the whole in a fairly good condition.

UNDERGROUND SLEEPING ROOMS.

There is no need for regulations as we have no such rooms in Darwen.

SCHOOLS.

The condition of the Schools on the whole is good. The town's water supply is connected to all the Schools and is adequate.

The playgrounds of several of the Schools are unpaved and in one School pail closets still obtain.

It was not found necessary to close any school on account of outbreaks of infectious disease. Three schools were placed upon temporary registers owing to an outbreak of Measles and Chicken Pox.

The Schools are inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors three times per annum during the holidays periods. At these periods the floors and furniture are washed and the walls are swept ; all lavatories are specially attended to and linewashed. Any structural defects found are speedily remedied.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

Special lectures were given at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and at various Schools in the Borough.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 AND 1928.

We have no works to which these Acts are applicable in this district and bed manufacturers and upholsterers here do not use this material.

Housing.

Housing Statistics for the Year 1931.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)	12
(i) By the Local Authority	6
(ii) By other Local Authorities	0
(iii) By other bodies and persons	6
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—	
(i) By the Local Authority	6
(ii) By other bodies or persons	0

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	4723
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	4965
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	255
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	350
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	40

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	216
2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	45
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year—	
A.—Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a) By Owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	17
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a) By Owners	16
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
C.—Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0
D.—Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

E.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a) By Owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	0

F.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AS TO HOUSING CONDITIONS.

The majority of the houses in the town are built in street formation, for the most part at right angles from the main roadways. The greater number are designed to accommodate people of the working classes. The streets are fairly wide. Houses for the most part are, commodious, lofty, well-lighted, and provided with fireplaces. The majority of the floors of the living rooms are flagged. Yorkshire stone has been used for the fronts in most of the houses, and bricks for the rear and internal walls. The oldest houses are stone built and are found on or near the old Roman highway or in folds.

It has not been the general custom to carry out subsoil drainage before building, with the result that dampness is common because of the subsoil being waterlogged. From the nature of the subsoil and the contour of the district, subsoil drainage of building sites should be insisted upon.

SUFFICIENCY OF SUPPLY OF HOUSES.

There is a decided shortage of houses in the town of low rental. Such houses are required to meet the circumstances of young married couples who can get no home of their own, and are compelled to secure furnished apartments where they can, or alternatively live with either one or other of the parents. Measures to meet this shortage have been suggested in my report to the Council, made under Section 25 (2) of the Housing Act, 1930.

The present depression in the staple trade does not lead me to anticipate any immigrant population in the immediate future.

There are no special difficulties in the way of providing suitable sites for the erection of new houses.

OVERCROWDING.

Owing to the lack of small and low-rented houses there is undoubtedly a degree of overcrowding in some of the pre-war built houses. The term overcrowding is used here to mean, not overcrowding in terms of people to cubic space within the house, but the congregating together in one house of more than two families.

The cause of this overcrowding is accounted for to a great extent in most cases by (i.) inability to pay the present rentals, (ii.) there being no houses available at cheaper rentals.

No special action was taken during the year to deal with this matter.

FITNESS OF HOUSES.

No special difficulties have been experienced in action taken under the Public Health Acts or under the Housing Acts, as defects have usually been remedied by owners of property after service of Informal Notices.

There were no houses found to be inadequately supplied with water from private sources.

A careful survey of the town was made and the results of the examination lead me to the conclusion that the question of remedial measures for dealing with insanitary property can be met by treating the properties concerned as individual houses, having that in view the following scheme was accepted by the Town Council on February 2nd, 1931.

There are approximately 236 separate dwellinghouses with common yards, etc., which have 124 water closets, or in more remote parts of the town, pail closets, provided for their use. At present the accommodation is regarded as adequate.

HOUSING ACT, 1930 (SECTION (2)).

QUINQUENNIAL STATEMENT.

Population (Estimated figure for mid-year 1929)	37780
Number of inhabited houses (according to rate books)	10489
A. Estimated production of houses by the Local Authority during the next five years	301
B. Estimated production of new houses of working class type by private enterprise during the next five years—	
(i) With subsidy under the Act of 1924	0
(ii) Under arrangements made under Section 29 of the Act of 1930	0
(iii) Otherwise	30
Total	<u>331</u>
C. Estimated number of new houses to be allocated by the Local Authority during the next five years to the purposes of the Housing Act, 1930 (i.e., the purposes mentioned in E. and F.)	57
D. Estimated number of new houses to be allocated by the Local Authority during the next five years to the purposes of the Act of 1924 (i.e., new housing)	244
Total	<u>301</u>
E. Estimated number of houses to be demolished during the next five years—	
(i) In clearance areas	0
(ii) In improvement areas—	
(a) For opening the area	0
(b) As unfit houses	0
(iii) Individual houses outside clearance and improvement areas	57
Total	<u>57</u>

F. Estimated number of persons to be displaced during the next five years—	
(i) By any of the processes mentioned in E	200
(ii) To abate overcrowding in improvement areas	0
Total	<hr/> 200 <hr/>
G. Estimated number of houses to be repaired under Part II. of the Housing Act, 1930, during the next five years	
	243

This statement is an estimate only and the number of houses to be built during the next five years is subject to their being no material change in the area which may affect in any way the estimate submitted.

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACT, 1926-1931.

Extensive alterations and improvements were effected (under the above Act) in a block of six houses situated in Blacksnape Road on the outskirts of the borough.

BYELAWS RELATING TO HOUSES, ETC.

The present Byelaws have proved to be adequate.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The milk supplied in Darwen is of good quality.

The Milk and Dairies (Consolidated) Act, 1915, The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, are all being complied with according to the various provisions. The Sanitary Inspectors carry out the duties and make inspections. The books and certificates required by the Acts and Orders are kept up-to-date.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923, two Dealer's Licences to sell " Certified " Milk, six to sell " Grade A " Milk and forty-nine to sell " Pasteurized " Milk have been granted.

There has been no refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk.

The Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops are periodically inspected. Their condition is considerably improved. The following improvements were made :—

Two new shippens were erected. Three new dairies constructed, nine dairies separated from dwellinghouses. At ten farms shippen pavements have been relaid and channelled. In five instances, shippen ceilings were raised. At 13 farms new windows were fixed or existing windows enlarged and window bottoms splayed. Concrete tanks have been fixed in three dairies. A good and constant water supply has been installed at two farms. Manure pits and pig sties have been constructed at two farms and in fourteen instances general repairs have been carried out.

The work that has been carried out is estimated to have cost about £1,250.

There are 76 cowkeepers on the Registers and 186 Dairymen or Milk Purveyors (other than cowkeepers). This number includes 139 dealers registered for sale of bottled sterilized milk, etc. Two hundred and ninety-three inspections were made during the year.

When necessary the veterinary surgeon is called in to inspect dairy cows.

Regarding tuberculous milk, no samples were submitted for bacteriological examination. Thirty-one cattle were clinically examined by the Borough Veterinary Inspector, and he reported that in his opinion four animals showed clinical evidence of tuberculosis. These animals were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, and postmortem examinations confirmed the diagnosis, compensation being paid to the owners.

MEAT, ETC.

The stalls, shops, stores and vehicles are under the supervision of the Inspector and the provisions of the Regulations are being complied with. The premises are visited regularly and strict supervision is kept.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

A public slaughterhouse has been provided and this is conducted satisfactorily. There are no private slaughterhouses in the borough.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 129 Bakehouses and on the whole they are in a fairly good condition.

FOOD CONDEMNED.

The amount of food surrendered or condemned as unfit for human consumption is as follows—

- (a) Tuberculous carcasses and parts—Approximate weight, 5,971 lbs., taken from 45 Beasts and 8 Pigs.
- (b) Diseased, unsound or unwholesome meat, other than above—Approximate weight, 3,572 lbs., taken from 17 Beasts, 12 Sheep, 1 Calf and 4 Pigs. The above approximate weight includes Bruised Meat and Diseased Livers.
- (c) Other Foodstuffs—98 lbs. Filletted Haddocks, and 4 tons of Potatoes.

It was not necessary to institute any legal proceedings.

There have been no cases of food poisoning reported during the year.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ADULTERATION ACT, 1928.

Twenty-eight samples of cows' milk were purchased by the Inspectors, submitted for analysis, and found to be genuine upon examination.

Eight informal samples of cows' milk were submitted to the sediment test for dirt, the results were satisfactory.

We have not taken any action during the year in respect of Condensed Milk Regulations, 1923 ; Dried Milk Regulations, 1923 ; or the Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912-1917.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

There were no samples submitted during the year.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

There were 54 Scarlet Fever cases notified, which were distributed throughout the Borough. No common cause of infection was discovered. Fifty-two cases of Diphtheria were reported against 98 in the previous year. These cases were more widely scattered throughout the town than in the previous year.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING THE YEARS 1927-1931.

YEAR.	Diphtheria and Croup.		Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhoid Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Tuber- culosis.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Measles & German Measles.	Pneumonia	Malaria.	Cerebro- Spinal Fever.	Polio- mye- litis.	Encephalitis Epidemica.	Total.
1927	..	5	10	65	..	6	9	34	2	..	77	..	2	..	1	211
1928	...	2	11	19	1	4	4	29	1	..	92	..	..	..	4	167
1929	...	46	11	54	..	4	8	26	8	..	72	..	..	..	3	232
1930	...	98	13	102	..	3	11	24	3	..	67	..	..	..	..	321
1931	...	52	8	54	1	1	4	22	3	..	36	..	..	..	1	182

Under the Diphtheria Anti-toxin Order of 1910, a supply of Anti-toxin is kept at the Health Office and the Police Station, and the total amount supplied free of charge to local practitioners and used in the Infectious Diseases Hospital during 1931 was 3,588,000 units. The Anti-toxin is promptly used.

There was one case of Encephalitis Lethargica reported during the year.

A Darwen patient was certified to have died in Blackburn Royal Infirmary from Encephalitis Lethargica. This case was not notified to either the Darwen or Blackburn Health Authorities. Our first intimation was contained in the return received from the Registrar General.

We had two "return" cases of Scarlet Fever.

Thirty-six cases of Pneumonia were notified. Owing to the Hospital being fully occupied with Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, we were able to accept only five of these cases in our Hospital. Other patients were however, admitted to Blackburn Royal Infirmary or Queen's Park Hospital, Blackburn. Enlargement of our Hospital by the erection of a cubicle block would overcome these administrative difficulties and in my opinion would meet the wishes of the community.

It has been general to discharge all uncomplicated cases of Scarlet Fever from this hospital on the 28th to the 30th day. If the accommodation is suitable, attention adequate, and the people desire the case to remain at home, we allow this, and maintain general supervision.

We have not adopted any new methods for the selection of individual cases for admission to hospital.

Cases of Measles or Whooping Cough, if complicated by Pneumonia, are now admitted to Bull Hill Hospital, if accommodation permits.

Contacts are kept under observation after removal of patients and disinfection of houses. Any suspicious carrier cases are examined in the usual way, bacteriologically and clinically, and dealt with accordingly.

No use has been made of the tests known as the Schick and Dick Tests, in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively, or of the recently developed artificial methods of immunization against these diseases as I do not think it wise at present to push these tests.

No vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the provisions of the Public Health (Smallpox) Regulations, 1917.

It has not been necessary to make any of the following diseases compulsorily notifiable—Measles, Whooping Cough, Diarrhœa (under 2 years), Chicken-pox, or any other disease.

Number of Special Reports made under Art. XIX. (15 and 16) Sanitary Officers' Order, 1910?—Nil.

No special inquiries have been undertaken in connection with epidemics from Influenza, locally contracted anthrax or rabies.

Arrangements in this district are so completely carried out for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer at the Blackburn Royal Infirmary in their Radiological Department that no special efforts are required to be taken in this direction by the Local Authority.

No special enquiries relating to cancer have been conducted in consultation with the Departmental Committee on Cancer or otherwise.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

The number of houses disinfected during the year was 172. The Disinfecting medium used was either Sulphur or Formalin.

We have a modern steam disinfector situated at Shorey Bank, near the Electricity Works.

LIST OF ARTICLES DISINFECTED DURING 1931.

Beds	Mattresses	Bolsters	Pillows	Quilts	Blankets	Sheets	Suits of Clothes	Carpets	Rugs	Curtains	Cushions	Shawls	Coats	Sundries
171	0	103	172	107	218	63	122	0	0	0	2	2	5	63

Total articles Disinfected, 1,028.

Arrangements have been made for bathing verminous, etc., persons if occasion arises.

Disinfestation was carried out in twenty-eight instances in respect of houses.

Prior to Rat Week in November, farmers, occupiers of mills, workshops, and food stores were circularised, and advised what action should be taken to rid their premises of rodents. On the whole the results were satisfactory. Action has been taken during the year in many instances where houses have been reported to be infested with cockroaches, fleas, bugs, etc.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Number of cases of infectious disease notified (other than Tuberculosis), number of deaths from these diseases, number of cases removed to hospital, and deaths in hospital during the year 1931—

DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED.														Total Deaths	Hospital.	
	Total Cases at all Ages.	YEARS.														Total Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district
		Un-der 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over				
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	54	...	...	1	2	2	32	9	4	3	1	...	...	...	...	42	...
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup	52	...	1	1	3	2	17	10	3	11	3	1	...	2	51	1	...
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Acute Primary Pneumonia	36	1	1	...	...	...	4	3	1	5	10	10	1	15	10	3	...
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	}	1	...	...
Puerperal Fever	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...		3	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia																	
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Polio-encephalitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
*Encephalitis Lethargica	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	*2	1	1	...
Dysentery ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	8	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	4	...	2	...	...
Malaria ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Any other diseases notifiable in district, e.g. :—																	
Chicken-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles (excluding German Measles) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
Any other disease .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals... ..	160	5	2	2	5	5	53	22	8	24	17	12	5	22	111	5	

* See page 43.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

When cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are notified the Health Visitors call and see that the treatment as advised by the doctors is carried out. After home or hospital treatment is completed these cases attend at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres for observation by the Medical Officer of Health.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

CASES.			Vision Unimpaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
Number Notified	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
3	3	0	3	0	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.			New Cases.				DEATHS <small>The number of deaths classified should agree with the total supplied by the Registrar-General.</small>			
			Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years.										
0—1...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...
1—5...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
10—15	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15—20	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	2	...	...
20—25	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
25—35	...	...	4	1	...	1	1	...	2	...
35—45	...	...	2	1	1	...	3	2	...	...
45—55	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	1	...	...
55—65	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	1	...
65 and upwards	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
.....			...	...	...	...	1*	...	...	...
Totals	...	...	10	6	4	2	7	6	6	...
			16		6		13		6	

* Adjusted to agree with Registrar General's Return.

Specify the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths —Three to nineteen.

Cases are fairly efficiently notified. No action has been taken.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence, or mortality from tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district.

Twenty-two cases of Tuberculosis were sent to various sanatoria and hospitals for surgical cases. Seven of these were discharged before the end of the year and four cases died whilst in the Institution.

The Examination of Sputum on Discharge was positive in three cases, negative in three, and in one case there was no examination result.

The Consumptive Patients from Darwen were sent to the following Institutions :—

5	Patients to	High Carley, Ulverston.
4	„	Withnell.
3	„	Queen's Park Hospital, Blackburn.
3	„	Chadderton, Royton.
3	„	East Lancashire Tuberculosis Colony, Great Barrow, Chester.
2	„	Halifax.
1	Patient to	Burnley.
1	„	Aitken, Holcombe.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

There has been no action necessary under these regulations.

The County Consultant Tuberculosis Officer and the County Tuberculosis Nurse work in close harmony with the Darwen Health Department. The nurse visits the office frequently and affords us excellent information regarding housing conditions which she meets in her work. We on our part assist in every way with regard to disinfection, etc. This mutual working is much appreciated by all concerned.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925. SECTION 62.

We have had no occasion to take action in respect of Section No. 62.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN EACH WARD, AND FOR EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR 1931.

MONTHS.	CENTRAL.				WEST-CENTRAL.				NORTH-EAST.				NORTH-WEST.				SOUTH-EAST.				SOUTH-WEST.				BOROUGH.								Total.												
	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Pneumonia	Puerperal Fever.	Ophthalmia Neon.	Tuberculosis	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Pneumonia.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Encephalitis leth.	Erysipelas.	Typhoid Fever	Tuberculosis	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Pneumonia.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Ophthalmia Neon.	Erysipelas	Tuberculosis	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Pneumonia.	Puerperal Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Ophthalmia Neon.	Encephalitis leth.	Erysipelas.	Typhoid Fever	Tuberculosis														
JANUARY ..	1	...	...	1	...	...	6	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	1	...	1	10	13	3	...	...	1	1	28
FEBRUARY ..	3	...	1	...	...	1	2	3	1	...	...	1	1	...	1	5	1	1	...	...	...	1	4	2	...	1	12	11	4	...	1	...	2	32				
MARCH	3	1	1	...	...	...	2	1	1	1	...	...	...	1	3	5	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	11	13	4	1	1	...	1	2	33		
APRIL	1	1	2	...	...	...	2	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	2	5	3	5	...	1	5	3	5	...	1	...	2	16
MAY .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3	...	...	2	1	3	...	1	...	1	9
JUNE .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	1	2	1	...	1	...	1	7	
JULY .....	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	4	6	
AUGUST ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3	2	1	...	...	3	2	1	...	...	...	1	7
SEPTEMBER 1	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	...	...	...	...	5	2	2	...	1	5	2	2	...	...	...	2	12
OCTOBER ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	2	...	...	3	...	2	...	...	1	2	8
NOVEMBER.	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	1	2	...	1	1	1	2	...	1	...	3	9
DECEMBER.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	...	1	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	3	9	...	...	...	1	1	15
TOTALS ..	5	5	3	1	1	5	7	5	3	2	17	10	9	2	1	3	14	14	8	1	1	4	3	12	9	1	1	2	8	6	4	1	4	6	54	52	36	1	4	3	1	8	1	22	182

NOTABLE SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

Several large ashpits serving groups of houses were abolished, and each house was provided with a dust bin. One thousand three hundred and fifty galvanised dust bins were substituted for ashes tubs during the year in addition to 2,250 during the preceding three years. The reconditioning of farms and dairies was continued, and much work was done.

CHIEF SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT.

The whole of the bed of the River Darwen still needs pitching and arching over in the vicinity of dwelling houses and shops. This would prevent much rubbish being deposited in the river and obviate the emanations of steam and foul odours.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

I.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or
Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Inspections.	Number of Written Prosecu- Notices. tions.			
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	201	...	4	...	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	443	...	4	...	—
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	49	...	—	...	—
Total	693	...	8	...	—

II.—DEFECTS FOUND.

	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.		No. of Prose- cutions.	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—						
Want of cleanliness	16	...	16	...	—	—
Want of ventilation	3	...	3	...	—	—
Overcrowding	—	...	—	...	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	3	...	3	...	—	—
Other nuisances	42	...	42	...	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation—						
Insufficient	—	...	—	...	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	3	...	3	...	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	...	—	...	—	—

	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	No of Prose- cutions.
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses (s. 101)	—	...	—	...
Other offences (excluding offences re- lating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers Orders, 1921) ...	—	...	—	...
Total	67	...	67	...

III.—HOME WORK. Nil.

IV.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

	Number.
Textile Factories	54
Non-Textile Factories	167
Workshops	277
Workplaces	11
Total Workshops on Register	509

V.—OTHER MATTERS.

	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 133, 1901)	—
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 5, 1901)—	
Notified by H.M. Inspector	1
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	1
Other	—
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) in use at the end of the year ...	3

Meteorology.

The Meteorological Observatory is at Bold Venture Park in Lat. $53^{\circ} 41' 25''$ N., and Lon. $2^{\circ} 28' 32''$ W., and is at an altitude of 728 feet above mean sea level.

Observations are taken twice daily at 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

This station is connected with the Meteorological Office, and is called a Normal Climatological Station. A report, giving all details of readings, is sent each month to the Meteorological Office, London.

The total rainfall for the year is 1555.5 millimetres, or 61.20 inches being recorded on 231 days ; the average for the last twenty years being 56.77 inches. The greatest monthly fall was in November, 250.1 millimetres ; and the lowest in March, 16.8 millimetres. The greatest daily fall was 45.3 millimetres, on November 27th.

The total sunshine registered on 254 days during the year was 1139.5 hours, the average for twenty years is 1133.2 hours. August registered the highest monthly total, 153.1 hours ; and November the lowest, 24.6 hours. The highest daily reading was 13.4 hours on June 29th.

The mean minimum temperature in shade was 40.7° , the average for the last twenty years is 40.7° . The lowest monthly mean was in March, 31.0° , and the lowest reading for the year 20.0° on March 10th.

The maximum wind velocities were on January 16th, 17th, 23rd, 24th, February 12th, and December 4th, when Westerly and West-North-Westerly winds were blowing at the rate of 38 miles per hour.

Nineteen observations of snow, 11 observations of hail, 3 observations of thunder, thunderstorm on 4 days, 39 observations of mist, 73 observations of ground frost, 15 observations of snow lying, 27 observations of fog, 12 observations of dew, 1 observation of lightning, 10 dry air, and 1 Lunar Corona.

There was a slight earth tremour or earthquake at 12.27 a.m. June 7th, which was felt over various parts of the town and lasted for about three seconds.

MEAN METEOROLOGICAL READINGS FOR 1930 AND 1931.

MONTH.	Barometer Corrected		Thermometers.																Hu- midity.		Sunshine (hours).		Rain (m.m.)		Wind Velocity		Wind Direction, 1931.										C'm
			Maxi- mum.	Mini- mum.	Mean.	Earth.						Water.																									
						1 Foot.		4 Feet.		10 Feet.																											
1930 ins.	1931 ins.	1930	1931	1930	1931	1930	1931	1930	1931	1930	1931	1930	1931	1930	1931	1930	1931	1930	1931	1930	1931	N	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	C'm							
January .....	...	29.879	44.1	40.7	35.0	33.0	39.5	36.8	33.6	37.0	41.4	40.5	44.6	44.7	42.2	40.6	86	77	34.8	45.7	195.6	196.4	15	13	4	1	0	1	11	3	37	5	0			
February .....	...	...	38.9	40.6	30.8	32.8	34.8	36.7	35.1	36.9	39.1	39.4	48.4	42.9	39.7	40.1	81	86	59.6	32.1	13.0	204.6	10	14	3	2	1	3	11	6	22	8	0		
March	29.732	...	44.3	43.9	34.2	31.0	39.2	37.4	33.5	37.7	39.3	39.0	42.5	42.0	41.0	39.8	80	76	88.5	142.2	96.9	16.8	14	13	3	7	10	16	11	3	6	6	0				
April	29.863	..	50.2	48.9	38.6	38.3	44.4	43.6	44.9	44.3	42.3	42.1	42.4	42.3	44.7	43.6	80	80	85.9	90.1	69.1	101.0	13	13	6	3	1	4	11	4	22	9	0				
May	29.998	...	57.2	59.0	42.1	42.6	49.6	50.8	51.0	51.7	46.6	46.6	44.2	44.1	48.1	48.5	77	75	152.6	171.5	60.8	68.8	11	9	0	6	8	7	20	5	12	4	0				
June	30.019	...	65.5	65.7	48.8	48.4	57.1	57.0	58.4	57.4	52.1	51.8	50.3	47.0	52.0	52.0	76	81	192.4	127.5	73.7	159.1	7	10	1	3	6	5	12	8	23	2	0				
July	29.846	..	62.0	63.7	51.0	51.5	56.5	57.6	59.4	60.4	55.0	55.4	50.0	49.9	53.1	53.5	83	82	117.5	114.9	175.9	130.7	9	11	1	0	2	3	11	13	26	6	0				
August	29.879	...	61.4	62.7	51.0	49.2	57.7	55.9	59.1	58.6	55.4	55.7	51.8	51.9	53.8	52.7	85	81	149.4	153.1	248.2	152.1	12	13	2	14	7	3	10	2	19	5	0				
September	29.962	...	60.0	58.3	49.1	45.3	54.5	51.8	56.7	54.7	55.9	54.0	52.5	52.3	52.3	50.3	86	82	86.5	87.2	115.7	107.2	11	8	6	6	4	2	6	3	21	12	0				
October	29.779	...	53.0	53.6	43.0	40.5	48.0	47.0	49.9	48.7	51.9	51.5	52.4	51.8	48.6	48.0	83	81	82.5	101.0	184.0	94.7	15	10	9	1	3	2	19	10	14	4	0				
November	29.847	29.734	46.2	47.7	36.3	40.1	41.2	43.9	42.8	44.4	47.1	46.9	50.2	49.5	44.4	45.5	84	89	54.1	24.6	203.5	250.1	13	12	0	1	3	9	31	7	6	3	0				
December	29.876	30.286	42.0	47.0	34.0	36.1	38.0	41.5	39.1	41.1	42.9	44.4	47.3	47.5	41.9	42.5	89	87	12.2	49.6	146.5	74.1	10	14	0	0	0	0	36	12	10	4	0				
Totals .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1116.0	1139.5	1582.9	1555.5	...	...	35	44	45	55	189	76	218	68	0
Mean	29.880	29.966	52.3	52.6	41.1	40.7	46.7	46.6	47.7	47.7	47.4	47.2	48.0	47.1	46.8	46.4	82	81	93.0	94.9	131.9	129.6	11	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Sanitary Inspector's Report.



GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE BOROUGH.

Number of premises and houses visited	4723
Number of houses visited (Housing Regulations, 1930)	255
Number of inspections of Schools	151
Number of inspections of Factories and Workshops	467
Number of inspections of Lodging House	239
Number of inspections of Bakehouses	226
Number of inspections of Dairies and Cowsheds	293
Number of inspections of Refuse Tips	117
Complaints received and investigated	228
Number of re-inspections made	4965
Number of samples purchased (Sale of Food and Drugs Act)	28
Visits paid to houses (Re cases of Infectious Diseases)	200
Number of houses disinfected	172
Loads of bedding steam disinfected	158
Number of smoke observations taken	6
Number of drains, etc., tested	50
Total number of nuisances discovered	2898
Letters written respecting nuisances	200
Informal notices served	2837
Statutory notices served	392
Number of nuisances abated including outstanding nuisances from previous year	2467

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF NUISANCES DISCOVERED.

Defective drains	391
Choked sewers	8
Defective Gas Pipes	7
Defective soilpipes and water closets	123
Defective downspouts, easing troughs, roofs and external walls	921
Dilapidated house doors	16
Defective plastering of walls	131
Dirty houses and premises	165
Dirty and dilapidated closets	60
Accumulations of refuse	247
Nuisances from animals	2

Defective kitchen sinks	30
Defective firegrates and flues	14
Broken slop-pipes	82
Choked waste water closets	93
Choked water closets	61
Insanitary yards, defective flagging	35
Defective internal floors	78
Insufficient ventilation	285
Dangerous buildings	52
Burst water pipes	13
Waste water closets converted to water closets	11
Overcrowding	1
Other miscellaneous nuisances	72

During the year 260 forms of agreement were signed by owners of property for Corporation workmen to open and repair choked and defective water and waste water closets and do other drainage work. All repairs, etc., were supervised by your officials. Many nuisances were abated by owners and occupiers immediately after the service of informal notices. In 392 cases it was necessary to serve statutory notices.

HOUSING.

Approximate number of dwellinghouses December 31st, 1931, as per Rate Books	10450
Number of new dwellinghouses certified during 1931	12

For further particulars see ~~pages~~ pages 35, 36 and 37.

DIRTY HOUSES.

In the monthly reports submitted to the Committee, particulars were given of certain houses situated in various parts of the town which were found to be in a very dirty condition. Informal and statutory notices were served upon the occupiers, and cleansing was ultimately satisfactorily done.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Two hundred visits were paid to houses where cases of infectious diseases had been reported, a thorough examination of each of the houses was made, defects in the drainage, etc., were caused to be remedied as quickly as possible. One hundred and one patients were removed under our supervision to Bull Hill Hospital.

The rooms previously occupied by the patients were disinfected. During the year 172 rooms were fumigated and 158 loads of bedding, etc., disinfected. A complete list of the number of cases of infectious diseases in the various wards is given on page 49.

Owing to outbreaks of Smallpox in districts adjacent to and within easy access of Darwen, a sharp outlook was maintained, particularly at the Municipal Model Lodging House where vagrants often reside when visiting the town. Persons known to have been in contact were kept under observation for a definite period.

BLACK SMOKE NUISANCES.

Owing to the unprecedented depression in the cotton trade, a number of mills have been permanently closed and the machinery scrapped. Several mills have been closed for long periods, whilst others have provided partial employment for the operatives. This has resulted in a very great diminution in the consumption of coal in the town.

Six observations only were taken, each of one hour's duration, the average emission of black smoke per hour being 2.41 minutes. Many visits however, were paid to the mill boiler-houses, when advice was given to the firemen regarding effective methods of stoking with a view to reducing the amount of black smoke emitted.

At two works mechanical stokers were fixed to the boilers with very satisfactory results.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES.

Four hundred and sixty-seven visits were paid to the Factories and Workshops and 226 Bakehouses were visited. A statement of the improvements made and the work done is recorded on pages 50 and 51.

TRIPERIES, ETC.

Two tripe dressing firms occupy premises in the Corporation buildings adjacent to the Pig Abattoir in James Street West. The work is carried out efficiently, the greatest possible care is exercised to avoid effluvia nuisances. The waste material is burnt. One gut scraper carries out the preliminary part of his work in separate premises situated at the Public Abattoirs. The casings are sent out of town to be scraped, etc. There was no cause for complaint during the year.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1875 TO 1907.

During the year twenty-eight samples of milk were purchased and forwarded to the County Analyst for examination. All proved to be genuine.

INFORMAL SAMPLES.

Eight informal samples of milk were purchased from various retailers and examined by means of the sediment test for dirt. It was found necessary in three instances to draw the farmers attention to the dirty condition of the milk. Subsequent samples taken from the same farmers were found to be satisfactory.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

There were 76 cowkeepers on the register in 1931, and 186 Retail Purveyors of Milk other than cowkeepers. Approximately there are 930 cows in the Borough. There are many purveyors of milk whose farms are situated without the Borough. The water supplies of the farms and dairies have been carefully watched and attention paid to the cleaning of shippons, dairies, utensils, etc.

It was found necessary to call the attention of certain farmers to the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, Part 5, Section 20, regarding the keeping of poultry in cowsheds. Floors and stalls were found soiled with excreta voided by poultry. The birds are often housed in the vicinity of the farm buildings and roam about the farm yards, etc. The farmers were advised to remove the cotes to suitable places some distance away from the dairies and cowsheds.

A great amount of work was done at the farms, in some cases involving reconstruction of shippons and dairies.

The following is a brief summary—

Two new shippons were built.

At one farm new wood partitions in the cow stalls were erected.

In two shippons the roofs were underboarded.

In thirteen shippons additional and larger windows (made to open) were fixed and the internal window bottoms splayed and the walls cemented.

In ten shippens the floors were entirely or partially relaid, channelled, etc.

In five shippens the ceilings were raised, thus ensuring more air space and more efficient ventilation.

Nine dairies were altered and separated from other buildings.

Three new dairies were constructed.

Concrete tanks were fixed in three dairies.

Two new middens and manure tanks were made and advantage was taken of the opportunity to effect other farm improvements, including new pigstyes.

At two farms the water supply has been improved.

In 14 instances general repairs have been executed.

At the close of the year reconstruction work was well in hand at many other farms.

The extensive structural improvements effected in the cowsheds have resulted in a general improvement in the condition of the sheds in regard to cleanliness. The drainage facilities causes the liquid manure to flow away more quickly and the manure is removed from the channels at shorter intervals than hitherto. Consequently the hind quarters and udders of the cows are much cleaner and freer from manure. There are unfortunately a few cow keepers who cannot be said to be clean, that is obvious when they are met personally at the farms or seen in their floats in the streets, and is very apparent when the shippens doors are opened. Still there is a gradual improvement all round which we hope will be maintained.

The cow keepers and milk sellers have been kept informed of the various regulations and orders in force and copies of circulars issued by the Board of Agriculture relating to Foot and Mouth Disease, Anthrax, etc., have been supplied. Where important alterations to shippens were necessary, copies of Circular No. 40 respecting construction of shippens were distributed to the owners and occupiers.

UNDER THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1923.

The following licenses were issued, viz.—

Dealer's Licenses to sell " Certified " Milk	2
Retailer's Licenses to sell " Grade A " Milk	6
Retailer's Licenses to sell " Pasteurised " Milk	49

There are 186 Dairymen or Milk Purveyors other than cow keepers. This number includes 139 dealers registered for the sale of Bottled Sterilized Milk.

Two hundred and ninety-three inspections were made during the year.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

The various millowners, farmers, etc., now exercise constant vigilance and a great many more cats are being kept. During the year poisoned bait was placed in selected and suitable places known to be infested, with satisfactory results. In some infested buildings the drains were found to be faulty, giving rodents access to the buildings. These were remedied as soon as possible.

RIVER AND STREAMS.

The river and streams are inspected periodically. During the year vast quantities of debris were cleared from the bed of the river by Corporation workmen.

OTHER MATTERS.

At each monthly meeting of the Health Committee, in addition to the printed report, detailed typewritten statements have been submitted respecting work done during the period under review.

INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.

Many inspections of the Elementary Schools were made particularly during vacations, viz., Easter, Mid-Summer and Christmas, to survey the buildings and ascertain if the cleaning had been done in accordance with your requirements, as issued prior to each vacation by Mr. Bretherick, Secretary of Education. On the whole the cleaning was efficiently done. Defects in buildings, means of ventilation, drainage, and pavement of yards were referred to the Education Secretary for attention.

The internal walls, ceilings, etc., were distempered and the woodwork painted at five schools.

The floors of schoolrooms and classrooms were renewed or repaired at ten schools.

The wall plaster was repaired at three schools.

New window frames were fixed in one school.

The pavement of playgrounds at two schools was repaired.

The ventilation was improved at two schools.

The drainage was repaired at six schools.

The external walls were pointed at five schools.

In addition many school roofs were repaired and the easing troughs and downspouts replaced where necessary.

Particular attention was given to the whitewashing of the external closet buildings.

MODEL LODGING HOUSE.

During the year there has been a decrease of 9.82 per month in the number of lodgers when compared with 1930, accounted for by the depression in the cotton trade. This is the only common lodging house in the town, a distinct advantage from a public health standpoint. I frequently visited the house, often in the evening after the lodgers had retired to rest, when the cubicles occupied were checked and the books examined. In order to curtail expenditure the two top rooms containing 65 cubicles were temporarily closed during the year. Owing to the operations of the Unemployment Insurance Acts there were fewer vagrants on the road than formerly and about 15 aged and infirm and sick lodgers entered Queen's Park Institution, Blackburn.

During the month of September an electric motor was installed in the laundry in lieu of the steam engine which will undoubtedly reduce the working cost.

The following Table shows the daily average number of occupants for each month during the last 10 years—

	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
Jan.	80.61	91.29	82.00	108.64	90.96	88.58	78.80	88.19	80.74	60.48
Feb.	80.25	93.03	81.34	111.39	88.32	88.67	85.62	87.67	74.89	61.21
March ...	80.15	86.90	84.39	110.93	95.74	87.19	87.77	89.32	74.67	66.64
April	87.26	87.43	97.50	119.83	95.53	84.20	84.00	92.30	80.33	65.23
May	91.41	86.35	98.96	118.94	98.29	81.08	77.90	82.83	76.87	61.38
June	83.96	83.53	97.20	109.13	94.20	84.00	86.20	79.10	74.00	61.36
July	83.45	73.25	94.64	98.41	97.48	80.42	88.32	77.54	71.77	63.38
August ...	83.16	80.64	98.83	104.35	86.69	82.00	78.51	70.09	67.03	59.09
Sept.	82.00	77.43	96.46	99.63	86.46	76.40	78.06	78.03	65.53	56.63
October . .	81.16	75.51	99.48	96.00	89.22	77.00	77.51	80.19	61.35	57.48
Nov.	80.13	73.26	104.09	96.50	92.36	80.43	83.06	78.16	58.23	55.66
Dec.	86.38	78.03	108.08	94.32	90.93	75.00	88.48	79.41	59.09	53.16
Average ...	83.32	82.22	95.37	105.67	91.34	82.08	82.85	81.98	70.37	60.55

The daily average number of female lodgers for 1931 was 9.60 as against 11.82 during 1930.

INSPECTION OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The Cinemas, Clubs and other public buildings were regularly visited and the sanitary conveniences, etc., examined. Many repairs were effected during the summer.

CLOSET CONVERSIONS, ETC.

Twelve waste water closets were converted to the water carriage system.

At six houses movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

All animals were killed at the Public Abattoirs where there is ample lairage and slaughtering accommodation. Strict supervision was maintained throughout the year; the slaughtering was done as expeditiously and humanely as possible, a Temple-Cox captive bolt humane killer being used for very large beasts and pigs.

Animals passing through the Abattoirs were carefully examined before and after slaughter. The quality of meat has been of a uniformly high standard. Consignments of fresh meat have been received from Birkenhead, Bolton, Blackburn, Wilpshire, etc. Many visits have been paid to the butchers shops of which there are about 60 in the Borough. A sharp outlook has been maintained to see that the orders of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, and the Sale of Food Order, 1921, were obeyed. It was found necessary to caution a few persons for careless handling and wrapping of meat.

The continued depression in the staple trade of the district has considerably affected the number of animals slaughtered in the Abattoirs. There is however, an increase in the consumption of chilled and frozen beef, mutton and pork.

The following table shews the number of animals slaughtered—

NUMBER OF CATTLE SLAUGHTERED AT THE ABATTOIRS.

	BEASTS.		SHEEP AND LAMBS		CALVES		PIGS		TOTAL	
	1930	1931	1930	1931	1930	1931	1930	1931	1930	1931
January.....	158	116	1035	721	2	3	10	22	1205	862
February	145	111	846	764	7	1	3	24	1001	900
March	149	127	809	784	18	4	0	20	976	935
April.....	126	103	838	773	6	2	11	10	981	858
May	111	91	852	755	0	0	0	2	963	848
June	108	111	845	781	0	0	0	3	953	895
July	89	72	922	794	1	1	0	0	1012	867
August	98	110	768	900	5	1	2	10	873	1021
September	127	101	867	1042	3	0	5	16	1002	1159
October ...	130	116	992	961	3	2	53	43	1178	1122
November	129	128	852	926	3	1	39	29	1023	1084
December	131	106	774	836	2	3	75	84	982	1029
Total	1501	1292	10400	10037	50	18	198	263	12149	11610

During the year it was found necessary to slaughter several animals after the usual hours, either during evenings or week-ends. I was present at the Abattoirs on these occasions. Visits to farms were also necessary prior to removal of animals to the Abattoirs.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE.

During certain periods of the year, the Borough was a scheduled area, and movement of animals was only allowed under license and although no cases were reported in the Borough, cattle were kept under observation and slaughtered within the prescribed period.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS (TUBERCULOSIS ORDER), 1925.

There were four notifications received during the year. The Borough Veterinary Surgeon was accompanied by your Inspectors when the farms were visited. All cattle were examined and the suspected cows were removed to the Public Abattoir, slaughtered and examined. The diagnosis in each case proved to be correct.

The carcasses were sent to the destructor and cremated.

The total amount of meat condemned and destroyed during the year was 9,543 lbs., as follows—

Number Examined.					Cause.	Weight Condemned.	
Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.			Whole Carcasses. Lbs.	Parts of Carcasses. Lbs.
4	...	—	1	Tuberculosis	2240
41	...	—	7	Tuberculosis	— 3731
1	...	1	...	—	1	Pneumonia	32 22
—	...	7	...	—	—	Enteritis	256 —
—	...	1	...	—	—	Asphyxiation	48 —
—	...	3	...	—	—	Distoma	90 —
6	...	—	...	—	—	Abscesses	— 203
4	...	—	...	—	—	Mastitis	— 63
1	...	—	...	—	—	Hydatid Cyst	— 10
3	...	—	...	—	—	Actinomycosis	— 92
1	...	—	...	1	1	Injuries	— 83
2	...	—	...	—	—	Unsound	— 140
—	...	—	...	1	1	Cirrhosis	— 10
—	...	—	...	1	1	Echinococci	— 10
Fluky and Diseased Livers and other organs, etc., and Bruised Meat .....						—	..... 2513
						2666	..... 6877

Total weight in lbs. Condemned, 9,543.

In addition 98 lbs. of Filleted Haddocks, and 4 tons Potatoes were condemned and destroyed.

FOOD INSPECTION.

A sharp outlook was maintained over the various articles of food offered for sale for human consumption and places where food is prepared were kept under observation.

Many visits were paid to Fried Fish, Chipped Potato and Tripe Shops.

The Wet Fish Shops also received attention, the offal being removed daily to the destructor.

REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE AND CLEANSING.

The whole of the work in this department is done by your own workmen. The house refuse from the most distant parts of the town is collected and deposited at the Destructor by motor, the rest of the ashes removal is done by team labour, involving the employment of six horses, carts and drivers, and 14 men loaders. The house refuse is incinerated in the Meldrum's Destructor which is situated in the Electricity Works Yard. The residual clinker which averages 55.34 per cent. was deposited on the tips.

The weight of ashes collected and the clinker removed was based on the results of test weighings ascertained during 1930.

In the parts of the town more distant from the Destructor the ashes-tubs are being replaced by dust-bins, which are much more sanitary, and easier to deal with. This arrangement is tending towards a gradual reduction in the amount deposited and a more expeditious collection.

In 1928 250 Ashes-tubs were replaced with Galvanised Bins.

In 1929 1,000 „ „ „ „ „

In 1930 1,050 „ „ „ „ „

In 1931 1,350 „ „ „ „ „

Further conversions will gradually take place.

All tins are sorted from the refuse, pressed and sold, the total amount received from January to December being £10 17s. 11d. For some time this kind of refuse has been difficult to dispose of. This accounts for the small amount received during the year.

The following is a summary of work done from January 1st to December 31st, 1931—

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.
House Refuse to Destructor (estimated)	8223	... 17	... 3
Market Garbage to Destructor (estimated) ...	190	... 3	... 3
	—	—	—
	8414	... 1	... 2
	—	—	—

	Ton.	Cwts.	Qrs.	
Clinker Removed by Motor from Destructor..	4551	4	2...	1031 Loads.
Sweepings to Various Tips				1963 „
Sweepings Deposited by Handcarts at Destructor				2104 „
Gully Wreck to Various Tips				923 „
Street Gullies Emptied				22474
Length of Streets Swept by Hand				2725 $\frac{1}{4}$ Miles.
Excreta to Sewage Works				473 Loads.
Excreta Pails Emptied				8535
Ashes Tubs Emptied				383461
Ashpits Emptied				184
Ashes Tubs and Dust Bins Added during the Year				42
Dust Bins Exchanged for Ashes Tubs				1350
Number of Portable Refuse Receptacles				11067
Snow removed from Main thoroughfares				327 Loads.

The 15 Public Urinals situated in various parts of the Borough are cleaned every day. Those situated in the Public Parks are attended to by the gardeners.

STREET LITTER.

Wire baskets and metal boxes have been fixed along the roadways in the town, and whilst a great amount of waste material and paper is deposited in them, there is still much litter indiscriminately thrown by careless people upon the footpaths and roadways, particularly during the evenings and week-ends.

A circular letter respecting litter on streets has been forwarded to the Headmasters and Headmistresses of the Schools in the town, soliciting the help of the scholars in an endeavour to keep the streets clean by placing in the bins waste paper, etc., they may have in their possession.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. R. WALSH,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

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